

### Assessing Young Dual Language Learners: *Diversity of Young Dual Language Learners*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

#### THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**  
Use these questions to think about your own practice.
- **Reflect with Others**  
Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.
- **The Power of Practice**  
Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

#### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How can I learn about children's language stories? How can I improve this process?
- How can I encourage families to discuss their backgrounds and histories?
- How might the five questions help me learn about children and families?
- Which of the five questions do I feel most comfortable asking families? Which of the questions are challenging for me to ask?
- Why are language stories important to consider?
- How can I use the information I learn from children's language stories to inform assessment?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Identify a dual language learner in your group whom you would like to get to know better. Have a conversation with the child's family to learn more about the child's language story. Use the five-question framework to guide your conversation. Remember that the questions are:

- **Who** is in the child's life? Who primarily cares for the child at home? Who lives with the child in the home? (These may include parents, grandparents, siblings, or others.)
- **What** language(s) or dialect(s) does the child experience? What languages or dialects does the child use? With whom does he or she use each language?
- **When** was the child first exposed to each language? Since birth? Later on?
- **Where** was the child born? Where did the child's family originally come from?
- **How** does the family envision the child's use of language in the future? How does the family support language development?

#### How Did It Go?

Reflect on your experience using the five questions to learn more about a child's language story. Which questions were you most comfortable asking? What were some challenges in the conversation? How did the family engage in the process? What might you try next time? Why?

#### What Next?

Try this activity with each of the families in your program as you meet with them to discuss children's language stories. Explore the next pack, *Why Assess in Both Languages?*, to learn more about the importance of assessing children in the context of all of the languages they use.